

IN SENATE  
OF  
THE UNITED STATES,

JANUARY 27, 1818.

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred the petition of Joseph Bevan of Georgia,

**REPORT:**

The petitioner states he has imported from Liverpool, in England, a highly improved steam engine, intended to impel a mill for rolling steel to make patent hoes, and also an improved saw mill to cut lumber of every description; and prays that the duty on said engine may be remitted, on the ground that the introduction of improved machinery by adding to the productive labor of the country is entitled to the patronage of the government.

The committee are duly sensible of the importance of labor saving machines to society, and they duly appreciate the enterprise of those who have been instrumental in bringing them into use, either as original inventors or as improvers on the inventions of others. The petitioner, however does not rest his claim to a remission of the duty, in the present case on either of those grounds; but on that alone of having imported this engine from a foreign country; and there is no evidence before the committee, to show, nor is it stated in the petition, that steam engines of equal excellence with that in question, both as regards the combination of mechanical principles, and workmanship could not be made in the United States; they do not therefore perceive any sufficient ground for encouraging the importation of such engines, by remitting the duty imposed on them by law. It is believed one of the leading motives for subjecting such articles to a duty was to encourage domestic manufactures; and none would seem better entitled to it than those of the description in question.

The committee therefore respectfully recommend to the Senate the adoption of the following resolution.

*Resolved*, That the prayer of the petitioner ought not to be granted.